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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/024,908

12/19/2001

Fahredin Rexhaj

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01/07/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JIMMY T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3725

DATE MAILED: 01/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/024,908

Applicant(s)

REXHAJ, FAHREDIN

Examiner

Jimmy T Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 8-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 8-12 and 14-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 22, 2003 has been entered, an action on the merits follows.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “ a spring assembly disposed upstream of the feed means” (emphasis added) (claim 2, lines 6-8) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim. Figs. 1-3 shown the spring assembly disposed between the feed means and a change of direction pulley. No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 2, the claim is functionally indefinite in that it fails to recite sufficient structure and their critical interrelationships to properly define the invention. The claim is basically considered totally incomplete in that they do not define sufficient structure to accomplish the intended results. The claim does not recite sufficient structure and their critical interrelationships in order to place "the wire in a taut condition and a slack condition" (last paragraph). Without further elements, the functional language is vague, unclear, and clearly indefinite. It is suggested that the elements in claim 13 should be included in claim 2 in order to overcome the rejections and to make the claim allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 2, as best understood, and claims 8-11, 14-19, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Flanigan et al. (US 3,157,109).

Regarding claim 2, the claim is rejected for substantially the same reasons as set forth in the last Office action. Additionally, Flanigan discloses a wire guide block (fig. 1), at least one

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guide roller (21) rotatable mounted on the wire guide block, a spring (22) which applied a force to the wire guide block. As to the wire is no longer in contact with the at least one guide roller in a slack condition, Flanigan discloses the structural as claimed, and the feed motor (38) created a slack "loop" in the wire when the feed motor is operated in the reverse position, which is inherently caused the wire off-contacts with the guide roller.

Regarding claim 8-11 and 14-19, Flanigan discloses a wire feed pulley (24), which is powered by a reversible motor (38), at least one pressure roller (25), a change of direction pulley (17), and the block is slidably mounted on a fixed guide pin (19). Note that the wire contacting the change of direction pulley is stationary in the slack condition when a safety brake lever (18) is applied (col. 2, line 50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flanigan et al. Flanigan discloses the wire is being fed from the slack condition to the taut condition (col. 6, line 65 to col. 7, line 18). As to the feed rate of approximately 4.5 m/s, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation when general conditions are disclosed in the prior art. *In re Aller*, 220F. 2d454, 105 USPQ 233(CCPA 1955).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed September 22, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the Flanigan invention incorporates moving components having relatively long spans of travel, and the lengthy movement is much more complex than the movement of the present invention, this arguments have been considered. However, amended claim 2 does not disclose the whole moving components (i.e. a wire feed pulley, three guide rollers ..) of the present invention. The patent to Flanigan, as set forth above, as best as can be understood, discloses claim 2.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 5,823,103 to Kuei. discloses an apparatus as claimed in claim 2, but the spring assembly (26) of Kuei's patent does not provide damping motion in the wire upon taking up of a slack loop by continued feeding of the wire.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy T Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-5304.

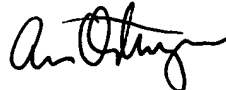
The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00am - 6:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allen Ostrager can be reached on (703) 308-3136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

JTNguyen
December 31, 2003



ALLEN OSTRAGER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700